

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06992 081031Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 080833Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2722
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 6992

EXDIS

FOR NEA ASST SECY ATHERTON FROM HUMMEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, MNUC, PK, US
SUBJECT: PAKISTANI AND ISLAMAIC DIPLOMATIC CORPS ATTITUDES
TOWARD REPROCESSING

1. SINCE MY ARRIVAL
12 DAYS AGO I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH CLOSE
CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN EMBASSY'S AND DEPARTMENT'S PERCEPTIONS
OF PAKISTAN SITUATION AND DYNAMICS. THIS IS RESULT OF EXCELLENT
EMBASSY REPORTING UNDER FIRST-RATE LEADERSHIP OF DCM CONSTABLE.

2. THERE IS, HOWEVER, ONE IMPORTANT AREA IN WHICH I THINK
STRENGTH AND DEPTH OF LOCAL ATTITUDES IS PROBABLY NOT WELL
UNDERSTOOD IN WASHINGTON. ADAMANT USG VIEWS ON REPROCESSING ARE
STRONGLY SUSPECTED, EVEN BY FRIENDLY PAKISTANIS AND FRIENDLY
MUSLIM DIPLOMATS, TO BE IN LARGE MEASURE RESULT OF ANTI-MUSLIM
BIAS ON PART OF USG. IRRATIONAL AS IT MAY SEEM TO US, THERE
IS CURRENT HERE A LINE OF THOUGHT THAT CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS
FOLLOWS:

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3. QUOTE. ISRAEL HAS PROBABLY DEVELOPED AN ATOMIC CAPABILITY;
ABOUT WHICH THE USG HAS DONE NOTHING. THE SHIPMENT OF URANIUM
DIVERTED TO ISRAEL SOME YEARS AGO WAS NOT INVESTIGATED WITH ANY
VIGOR. SOUTH AFRICA HAS PROBABLY DEVELOPED A CAPABILITY.
INDIA HAS ALSO, AND THE USG, WHILE THREATENING PAKISTAN WITH
RETALIATION FOR ITS PLAN TO HAVE A SAFEGUARDED REPROCESSING PLANT,

IS FURNISHING NUCLEAR FUEL AND DISCUSSING RESUMPTION OF AID TO INDIA. THUS IT SEEMS THAT BETWEEN ISRAEL IN THE WEST AND INDIA ON THE EAST, THE USG IS TRYING TO PREVENT ANY MUSLIM COUNTRY FROM ACQUIRING THE MEANS OF PRODUCING ATOMIC WEAPONS, WHILE BEING LENIENT WITH NON-MUSLIMS. UNQUOTE.

4. THUS IF WE ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO TRIGGER THE SYMINGTON AMENDMENT, WE CAN EXPECT LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OR SYMPATHY FOR OUR POSITION, EITHER FROM OUR FRIENDS IN PAKISTAN, OR FROM FRIENDLY MUSLIM COUNTRIES EITHER, IF THE ATTITUDES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES HERE IS ANY GUIDE.

5. YOU WILL REALIZE THAT I REPORT THIS SAD FACT OF LIFE NOT TO SUGGEST ANY CHANGE IN OUR REPROCESSING POLICY, OUR OPENINGS TO INDIA OR OTHERWISE. IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR POLICIES SHOULD NOT BE CONTINGENT ON DISPELLING IRRATIONAL PERCEPTIONS OF US FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. RATHER, I WANT TO BE SURE THAT THESE ATTITUDES ARE FULLY UNDERSTOOD IN WASHINGTON. WHETHER THESE PERSISTENT MISCONCEPTIONS CAN BE USED IN YOUR CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS IS OF COURSE UP TO YOU. I AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS WILL DO OUR BEST TO REFUTE THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT HERE, BUT WITHOUT MUCH REALISTIC HOPE OF SUCCESS.
HUMMEL

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